



2005 Election Reform Package

SECRETARY OF STATE SAM REED

Enhancing voter registration recordkeeping Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5743

Registering to Vote

A person applying to register to vote must provide a Washington driver license or state identification (ID) card. If he or she does not have a driver's license or state ID card the four digits of his or her social security number may be provided instead.

A person may only be registered to vote if the applicant has confirmed citizenship and the Secretary of State has confirmed that the driver license, state ID card, or social security number is valid.

The voter registration form must include a checkbox for military and overseas voters, another sworn statement about the penalties for illegal voting, and a checkbox for the applicant to indicate that he or she does not have a driver's license, state ID card, or social security number.

Knowingly registering to vote without the legal qualifications is a class C felony.

A voter who registers by mail and does not have a driver license, state identification card, or social security number must provide a secondary form of ID the first time he or she votes after registering. If the voter fails to provide a secondary form of ID, the ballot must be treated as a provisional ballot, whether voting by mail or voting in person.

Department of Licensing agents and other agencies are required to affirmatively ask, "Are you a U.S. citizen?" and "Are you or will you be 18 on or before the next election?" Answers must be affirmative to both before asking if they want to register to vote.

Homeless are allowed to register to vote using the address of a nearby public building as the residential address for precinct purposes.

Absentee Ballot Envelope

A secrecy flap is required to cover the voter's name, signature and telephone number.

An additional declaration on the outer envelope regarding illegal voting is required.

The envelope must include a space for the voter to optionally provide his or her phone number.

Felons Voting

A felon must be notified at the time of conviction that the right to vote has been lost, that his or her voter registration will be canceled, that voting before the right is restored is a felony, and the process for getting the right restored.

A voter who appears on a felon list must have registration suspended, be notified of the suspension and the process for restoring the right to vote, have 30 days to respond, and at the

end of the 30 days the registration is cancelled. Information on previous successful appeals must be retained to avoid repeated cancellations.

The county clerk is required to notify the Secretary of State each time a felon completes all requirements of a sentence.

The Secretary of State is required to notify the appropriate county auditor if a felon has completed all requirements of a sentence.

Statewide Voter Registration Database

The Secretary of State is required to screen the database quarterly for felons, the deceased, the legally incompetent, and persons who have declined to serve on juries due to lack of citizenship using Department of Corrections, Washington State Patrol, Administrator of the Courts, Department of Health and Department of Licensing databases.

The Secretary of State is required to screen all voter registration applications against existing registrations to prevent duplicates.

The Department of Licensing is required to make more drivers license information available to the Secretary of State, such as picture and digital signature.

The return forms sent to voters with verification and confirmation notices are required to be preaddressed and postage-paid.

Public Records

The Secretary of State must provide lists of registered voters upon request, just like county auditors.

A voter's date of birth is public record.